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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CTC Approves Funds to Cover Increased Cost of Central San Rafael Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project

San Rafael, CA -- February 3, 2006 -- The California Transportation Commission (CTC) yesterday authorized a \$12 million increase in state funds to cover the \$55 million cost for the construction of the Central San Rafael Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project. The CTC had previously approved \$43 million to cover the estimated cost of the project, but the winning bid was in excess of the Caltrans' initial project estimates.

Bid results reflect the dramatic volatility in the cost of construction materials impacting State highway projects. Increases in the costs of concrete, steel, asphalt concrete and labor are consistently causing higher than anticipated bid results statewide.

Ghilotti Brothers of San Rafael submitted the winning bid. "This was a very close vote," said Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director of the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). "This action in a very tight budget environment was a huge victory for Marin County."

The Central San Rafael Project extends from the Coleman Pedestrian Overcrossing to the 580/101 separation. It is the third of four segments of the Highway 101 Gap Closure project to provide a continuous carpool lane through central Marin County. Benefits of the project include reducing traffic congestion on Highway 101 by constructing an additional lane both southbound and northbound and providing a two lane southbound offramp on a newly reconstructed 101 to 580 connector. Other work includes re-aligning and reconstructing Francisco Boulevard West and burying the utilities underground.

The project is scheduled to start late in March 2006 and be completed by the end of 2008. A public information meeting for the project will be on March 2, 2006 at the San Rafael Community Center.

TAM will be providing regular updates on the project on their website at www.tam.ca.gov.

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